

Varsity: We're ready to help students financially

PETALING JAYA: Students of public institutions of higher learning should not resort to providing escort services for cash because there is always financial support available from universities.

Universiti Putra Malaysia deputy vice-chancellor (student affairs and alumni) Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Fauzi Ramlan said it was unfortunate that students had to resort to such activities for cash.

"There is no excuse because there is always financial assistance under which students can receive up to RM600 a month for their expenses," he said.

He said at UPM, students were also encouraged to work on campus or give tuition classes to the community via its career placement centre.

The most important part in the development of a graduate's personality was their ethics and morals, stressed Dr Mohd Fauzi.

"Part of the university's key performance indicator is student employability. Students are required to take an ethics and morals class as part of their soft skills development," he pointed out.

Dr Mohd Fauzi voiced fears that students could also get addicted to

such activities.

"If this is really happening, I urge the students to stop. They may continue with it even when they are working," he said.

He was responding to a report that it was now easier for undergraduates to provide escort services to foreigners for cash because of the Internet.

A 21-year-old student from Ipoh, who calls herself "Dark Angel", had confessed to attracting clients by posting photographs of herself in revealing outfits in a website which offered escort services.

Students, added Dr Mohd Fauzi,

should instead make good use of their time in the university to focus on fulfilling their credit requirements each semester.

Universiti Malaya deputy vice-chancellor (student affairs and alumni) Prof Datuk Dr Rohana Yusof said the students involved would be called in for counselling if there were reports of such activities.

"If we know these things are going on, we will definitely call the students in and talk to them," she said.

"We need to tackle this if it is really happening because it is something that will become more serious in future."